

REMARKS

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected the Application over Pastrick '305, '306, '704, '705 and '654 patents under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-23, 25-33 and 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) citing Yamada.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has deleted claims 1-24 and 35-40; amended claim 25 and added new claims 41-59.

The claimed invention includes a bezel which is disposed in proximity to a lower transverse surface. The bezel includes a height and extends below a lower transverse surface of the mirror housing.

In claim 41, the bezel is formed as a separate element and is attached to a lower transverse surface of the housing.

In claim 59, the housing includes a downwardly extending peripheral wall and the bezel portion includes an upwardly extending wall for mating with this wall for forming the housing.

In claims 54-59, applicant has added new claims as to a separate bezel or signal mirror attachment which forms a lower portion of the mirror housing.

Discussion of Cited Patents

Pastrick discloses a rear facing signal light on the bottom of a mirror housing. This module is either a built-in portion of the housing as in Figure 7 of Pastrick '305 or it is a module which slips into an opening in the base of the mirror

as in Figure 26 of the Pastrick '654 patent. These patents and features are representative of the group of Pastrick patents cited by the Examiner.

While these patents show a signal or the like built in as the lower portion of the mirror, they do not show a bezel or light attachment member formed as a separate member from the mirror housing. And while the device of Pastrick '654 is separately formed, it does not extend below a lower peripheral portion of the mirror housing and/or follow the contour of the mirror housing.

Thus, the patents to Pastrick do not disclose a bezel or signal light attachment formed as a separate element with a height for extending below a lower transverse surface of mirror housing as set forth in the present invention. None of these patents disclose the bezel having a height which extends below the lower portion of the mirror and forms a contour therein which is at least partially opaque as set forth in claim 25. Thus, in the present invention set forth in claims 54 and 55-59, the signal light attachment or bezel forms the lower portion of the mirror housing. There is no suggestion, showing, or teaching of a separately formed bezel portion which is attached to the housing and has a thickness for extending below the housing, nor is attachment to the lower transverse surface of the housing shown, disclosed or rendered obvious in the Pastrick patents.

Also, as defined in new claim 59, the downwardly extending peripheral wall which mates with an upwardly extending peripheral wall from the bezel, is not shown in the Pastrick patents or rendered obvious since there is no disclosure of this feature in the Pastrick patents or any suggestion that this feature could be provided in a mirror structure.

The structure of the present invention allows interchangeability of the bottom light emitting portion of the mirror housing to provide various contours or designs as may be required in a particular application. Thus, both stylistic and feature modifications which are contained in the bezel portion may be reflected in a vehicle style. This customizing of the mirror appearance and the features set forth in the bezel portion of the mirror housing are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the Pastrick patents.

Additionally, while Yamada discloses a remotely controlled bezel portion, it does not disclose a bezel portion attached to a lower transverse surface of the housing which includes the opaque contoured surface and a thickness for extending below the mirror housing, as set forth in the amended claims and newly added claims. The teachings of Yamada are for a bezel portion which may be directed in any number of directions and does not form a contour following member as claimed herein. Additionally, Yamada does not disclose the mating walls set forth in claim 59, which provide a continuous contour of the housing.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a bezel member as defined in the present claims is not shown or rendered obvious by the Yamada '137 patent.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject rejection and submits that the application is allowable over the references cited. Allowance of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that prosecution of the subject invention may be further advanced or further clarification is desired, the Examiner is invited to telephone the applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Please send all future correspondence relating to this application to Warn,
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Respectfully submitted,

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PRW:jmz

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

25. (Amended) A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:

a mirror housing;

a reflective element;

a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the backing assembly supporting the reflective element;

a bezel having a height for extending below the housing, formed as a separate element of and attached to a lower portion of the mirror housing, a portion of the bezel including an opaque contoured surface portion extending from the lower portion of the mirror housing, the bezel having an opening for projecting light through the opening lens;

a light module disposed within the bezel, the light module having a light source for providing light to be projected through the opening lens; and

a lens formed in the opening, the light projecting through the lens.